

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A continuous method of production of carbon ~~nanoparticles~~ nanotubes, comprising:
 - continuously providing substrate particles;
 - providing on the substrate particles a transition metal compound that is a nickel, iron or cobalt formate or oxalate which is decomposable to yield the transition metal under a non-reducing atmosphere permitting carbon ~~nanoparticle~~ nanotube formation;
 - fluidizing the substrate particles with a flow of gaseous carbon source;
 - heating the transition metal formate or oxalate on the substrate particles;
 - before, during or after contacting the gaseous carbon source with the substrate particles, decomposing the transition metal formate or oxalate to yield the transition metal on the substrate particles;
 - forming carbon ~~nanoparticles~~ nanotubes by decomposition of the carbon source catalysed by the transition metal, wherein the catalyst is not pre-treated with hydrogen gas; and
 - collecting the carbon nanoparticles formed by elution.
- 2.– 6. (Cancelled).
7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is a hydrocarbon or carbon monoxide.
8. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the gaseous carbon source is methane or acetylene.
9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is passed over the substrate particles.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is mixed with a diluent.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the diluent is argon.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate particles comprise oxide particles and/or silicate particles.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the substrate particles comprise one or more of silica, alumina, CaSiO_x , calcium oxide or magnesium oxide.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate particles are in the form of a fumed powder, a colloid, a gel or an aerogel.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating to a temperature between 200°C and 1000°C.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating to a temperature between 600°C and 1000°C.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carbon nanotubes are single walled carbon nanotubes.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the initial step of impregnating the substrate particles with the transition metal compound.

21.-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, comprising:
continuously providing substrate particles to an upper part of an inclined surface;
contacting the substrate particles on the inclined surface with a flow of gaseous carbon source;
heating the transition metal compound on the substrate particles; and
collecting carbon ~~nanoparticles~~ nanotubes formed from a lower part of the inclined surface.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein
heating the transition metal ~~oxalate, or formate~~ compound on the substrate particles to decompose the transition metal ~~oxalate, or formate~~ compound to the transition metal occurs before contacting the substrate particles with the flow of gaseous carbon source.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the transition metal ~~oxalate or formate~~ compound is nickel formate and the substrate particles are silica particles.

26. (Cancelled)